

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2096

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0346

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NS

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF DUTCH MAP EQUIPMENT TO SURINAM THROUGH
FMS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 139083

1. RATIONAL REQUESTED REFTTEL TO JUSTIFY FINDING REQUIRED FOR
EQUIPMENT TRANSFER UNDER SECTION 3 (A) OF FMS ACT FOLLOWS:

A. IMPORTANCE OF SURINAM TO UNITED STATES SECURITY INTERESTS
LIES PRIMARILY IN ITS ROLE AS MAJOR SUPPLIER TO STRATEGICALLY
IMPORTANT RAW MATERIAL: BAUXITE. IN 1973, SURINAM WAS THIRD
LARGEST PRODUCER OF BAUXITE WORLD-WIDE AND SUPPLIED NEARLY A
QUARTER OF TOTAL U.S. IMPORTS. SURINAM BAUXITE WAS CRITICAL
TO U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION DURING WORLD WAR II.
SURINAM IS SIXTH LARGEST PRODUCER OF ALUMINA AND ACCOMMODATES
ONE OF FEW INTEGRATED ALUMINUM PRODUCING FACILITIES IN THE
WORLD. TOTAL U.S. INVESTMENT IN THE BAUXITE-ALUMINUM INDUSTRY
IN SURINAM IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$400 MILLION.

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B. AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF PRESERVING UNITED STATES ACCESS TO

STRATEGIC MATERIALS IN SURINAM UNDER REASONABLE CONDITIONS, AND OF INSURING THE PREVENTION OF HOSTILE ALLIANCES, IS TO ESTABLISH A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SURINAM MILITARY LEADERSHIP. AS IS TRUE IN MOST LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE SURINAM ARMY IS LIKELY TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE AFTER IT COMES INTO BEING WITH THE ADVENT OF INDEPENDENCE ON NOVEMBER 25, 1975. IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST, THEREFORE, TO ENCOURAGE A FRIENDLY STANCE AMONG THE MILITARY BY HELPING THEM IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES THROUGH FMS CASH SALES.

C. THE SURINAM ARMY HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ACQUIRING SOME ITEMS OF MAP EQUIPMENT NOW HELD BY LOCAL DUTCH FORCES WHEN LATTER LEAVE ON OR ABOUT INDEPENDENCE DATE. RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF FMS ELIGIBILITY BE MADE PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1975.

2. RECOMMEND THAT GON BE ASKED TO APPRISE GOS NOW OF FACT THAT USG HAS RESIDUAL INTEREST IN EQUIPMENT AND THAT GON CANNOT TRANSFER IT TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR APPROVAL; THAT IF APPROVAL OBTAINED, WHICH UNCERTAIN, TRANSFER WOULD INVOLVE TOKEN PAYMENT; AND ASCERTAIN IF GOS STILL INTERESTED UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS OR SHOULD DUTCH TAKE EQUIPMENT ALONG ON DEPART-URE WE UNDERSTAND GOS PRESENTLY EXPECTS DEPARTING DUTCH FORCES WILL TURN OVER SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT TO NEW SURINAM ARMY, ALL OR MOST OF IT GRATIS. LOCAL DUTCH COMMANDER HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRARY AND CURRENTLY PLANS TO LEAVE BEHIND OLD MAP RECOILLESS RIFLES AND GENERATORS WITH OTHER MATERIEL. WE FORESEE POSSIBLE CONTRETEMPS REQUIRING US TO RECOVER EQUIPMENT SHOULD GOS, HAVING EXPECTED IT GRATIS, THEN DECLINE TO BUY IT WHEN OFFERED BY DOD AFTER DUTCH DEPART, ASSUMING ELIGIBILITY ESTABLISHED (PARA 3 REFTEL).
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